SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2025 @7:00 P.M.

Town Council President Nathan Scherer called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were William Musser, Paul Stoelting, Clerk-Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Absent Larry Siegel and Cindy Kaiser, Council members.

Nathan Scherer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments - Discussion from the floor (agenda items only) 2 minutes per speaker 10 minutes total.

The Council Minutes - The minutes from December 19, 2024, regular meeting presented for approval. Bill Musser had a change in the minutes. At the end of the minutes Bill Musser stated on page six he said, "it's irrelevant not it has no bearing" Clerk replied she wrote the minutes word for word. Bill Musser withdrew his statement. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

The Town Claims - Claim #'s 1497-0093 for $1,002,622.01 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

Election of Council President – Bill Musser nominated Nathan Scherer for the 2025 Council President. Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried. Nathan Scherer accepted. Nathan Scherer appointed Cindy Kaiser as Vice President.

Street/Aley Vacation Request-Urban Oaks – David introduced the owners of Urban Oaks to address any questions the council might have. Terry Lang, Wightman Engineering, was asking for several alleys around Urban Oaks vacated so they can further develop around the property with new apartments. The area being talked about is the parking area off Boston Street and the old playground/football field. Alleys are not being used currently. Utilities were discussed with Mr. Lang. Nathan Scherer thanked the owners of Urban Oaks for investing in Syracuse.

Declaratory Resolution 2025-01 Aluminum Insights Tax Abatement- Requesting a tax abatement for an extension. Aluminum Insights are expanding to the North side of the building. Fifteen employees are anticipated after the expansion. Bill Musser made the motion for the tax abatement. Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy asked for approval on Task Order No. 2025-01 for an on-call agreement not to exceed ten-thousand-dollar for service calls. Bill Musser approved the on-call agreement. Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried. Jeremy passed out a handout on recommended project alternatives, total cost difference on SRF and OCRA. The projects that have been included in the PER, Huntington Street improvements, 12' Transmission Main from WTP to Huntington Street, Service Line Improvements East of WTP and Kern Road Water Main Extension. The town is now qualified to apply for OCRA Grants. To apply for the SRF/OCRA, the next step would be to have a public hearing by March 18th. Jeremy is asking for approval from the Council to proceed with the process of applying for the SRF/OCRA. Paul Stoelting approved to move forward with the SRF/OCRA; Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson had nothing beyond what is in his report. Would like to reinstate the Façade Grant for 2025. It was highly successful in 2024. Spent the entire fifteen thousand last year. David proposes using EDIT money to continue the program and increase it to twenty-five thousand for 2025. Bill Musser approved the twenty-five thousand for 2025, funds to be taken from the EDIT fund. Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

Pearl Street Reconstruction, MACOG has an electric vehicle program that the Town of Syracuse has been selected to qualify for a charging station. MACOG would fund 80% of the charging station and the Town would do the other 20%, which would be approximately $10,000 - $15,000. We also received a $2,000.00 grant from MACOG for that match, so it would be less than $15,000. Any fees by the charging station will come directly to the Town. MACOG maintains the charging station for 5 years then it goes to the Town. The Town Attorney has reviewed the agreement. Paul Stoelting made a motion for the council president to sign the agreement. Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. Motion carried.

Opioid Funds, trying to figure out where we should spend the money. We received an email from the Director of the Rose Garden, and they have requested we consider investing in K-CODE. Seems to be the most logical way to use the money. Currently we have $29,585.00 in the restricted fund and will continue to get more in 2025. Bill Musser made a motion to donate $15,000 to K-CODE with the balance to be decided later. Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. A few months ago, Jim applied for a grant for $20,000.00. He received the grant, which will be used to update our mobile data in vehicles. In the process of getting quotes.

Jim also had an annual agreement for $5,515.00 between the town and Kosciusko County for Terminal Service Data that needs to be signed by the council and turned in by January 31, 2025.

No ADA complaint.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent presented the 2024 Tree Summary to the council. The Town has in the past received a grant from the St. Joseph River Basin, sixty trees because we were Tree City USA.

The park is going to use some of the ARPA money towards the pickleball courts, they are also applying for a K21 grant as well.

Received the Harkless Grant, received more than usual, used that money to purchase AED for all the parks. Will be on the outside of all the pavilions.

Princess parties are coming up in February.

Garage Sales will be in the first week of March.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Nathan asked a question, in the RDC meeting, you asked for $58,000 for the generator. On the quote it says $51,000. Mark stated it also includes installation for a total of $58,399.00.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Asking for approval to purchase a garage door from Mike's Garage Doors for $4045.50. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the $4,045.50 for the garage door. Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried. Mickey also asked for $8,893.38 emergency lights for the 2024 Tahoe does not include shipping. Mickey would also like approval not to exceed $9,000.00. Paul Stoelting made a motion not to exceed $9,000.00 for emergency lights. Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions in her report. Nathan asked about the INPRS email for $700.00 to cover the partial withdrawal from PERF. In 2023 when we took the Town Manager off INPRS that created shortage in our pool for PERF, the Town must replace the $700.00 to make the pool whole. Paul Stoelting made the motion to approve the $700.00 to fill the pool for PERF. Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 2-0. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing.

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Bill Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____
Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

_____
Nathan Scherer, Council President